

Stuart Baker's collection of birds in the National Museum of Natural History (Sofia)

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The interest in the amazing collections of wild birds made by Mr. Edward Charles Stuart Baker (1864 - 1944), a former Secretary of the British Ornithological Society, recently has increased quickly. As it is known, Mr. Baker made his collection in 9 years in the last decade of 19th century. The great majority of the stuffed skins originates from Cachar Hills in India.

The further fate of the specimens of this considerable collection is different. As it is noted in the Obituary of E. Baker (Anonym., 1945), some of the specimens remained in India - he gave them to the Bombay Natural History Society. Others were disposed to Lord Rothschild, "... but the majority he sold to the Royal Museum in Sofia." (p. 212). The new private Natural History Museum (founded 1889) of the Bulgarian Tzar Ferdinand I developed rapidly. He spent considerable funds for purchases of important zoological collection all over the world (BOEV, 1991). In 1906 the ornithological collections of that museum consisted of 8229 bird specimens (mounted stuffed skins) of 1538 avian species. Additionally 2210 bird eggs and many nests were kept also (Anonym., 1907).

The more often inquiries lately (from the National Museum of Natural History of the Smithsonian Institution - Washington, Natural History Museum - London) concerning the present state, species list and the number of the "Bulgarian" part of the St. Baker's ornithological collection forced the preparing of present catalogue and its publication in the offered form.

The scientific names of species are given after the systematic list of HOWARD & MOORE (1980). Because of the difficulties in determination and lack of more detailed reference literature, in some cases we list the original Baker's identifications of birds, given in brackets. All available data of labels (age, sex, place and date of collecting) of each specimen are given also. The geographical names of the locations are given as made out. A question mark is put before the names of bad legibility.

The present catalogue includes 152 bird specimens of 83 species of 29 families and 9 orders, collected between 1892 and 1900. The collection number of the National Museum of Natural History (Sofia) is given for each specimen.

Abbreviations used: ad - adult specimen; juv. - juvenile specimen; N - North.

Order CICONIIFORMES

Family Ardeidae

- Ixobrychus cinnamomeus* - India: 5151, 01.05.1896; 5152, 17.07.1893.
Gorsachius melanolophus: 5153 India, 09.1897.
Butorides striatus javanicus: 2134 ♂ Bundho - Cachar - India, 04.03.1893.
Ardea cinerea - Cachar - India: 4828 ♀ juv., 14.02.1897; 4829 juv., 12.1897.
Ardea purpurea - Cachar - India: 4871 ♂ ad., 07.07.1894; 4872 juv., 07.07.1894.
Ardeola grayii: 5150 Haflang - India, 27.04.1899.
Bubulcus ibis coromandus : 2132 ♂ Silcorie, Cachar - India, 05.06.1896.

Order ANSERIFORMES

Family Anatidae

- Anas acuta*: 4528 ♂ ad.; 4529 ♂ juv. Cachar - India, 01.1900; 4530 ♂ juv.; 4531 ♀ juv.; 4532 ♂ juv.; 4533 ♂ juv.; 4534 ♀ juv.; 4535 ♂ juv.; 4536 ♂ juv. Cachar - India, 09.1897; 4537 ♂ juv.; 4543 ♂ juv. Cachar - India, 11.1897.
Anas crecca: 4546 ♂ ad.; 4557 ♀ juv. - Nehurpore - Cachar - India, 11.11.1895; 4558 ♀ juv. - Moka Haprie - Cachar - India, 27.11.1895; 4559 ♀ juv. - Nehurpore - Cachar - India, 11.11.1895; 4562 - Rifle, Butte - Cachar - India, 01.02.1893; 4563 juv. 4564 ♂ juv.
Anas querquedula: 4573 ♂ juv.; 4581 ♂ juv.
Anas penelope: 4583 ♂ juv. Cachar - India, 12.1897; 4587 ♂ ad. ? Mepukan - India, 31.03.1897; 4588 ♀ ad. Cachar - India, 12.1897.
Anas strepera - Cachar - India: 4608 ♂ ad., 31.10.1895; 4609 ♀ ad., 01.1900; 4610 ♂ ad., 01.1900; 4611 ♂ ad., 12.1897.
Aythya ferina : 5008 ♀ juv. - ? Zelchar, 11.1898.

Order FALCONIFORMES

Family Accipitridae

- Accipiter badius polyopsis*: 552 ♂ juv. Rupachera, Cachar Hills - India.
Aquila rapax vindhiana: 2206 ♀ Cachar Hills - India, 12.1898.

Order COLUMBIFORMES

Family Columbidae

- Macropygia unchal tusalia*: 753 ♂ ad. Gunjant, Cachar Hills - India, 05.03.1896.

Treron apicauda - Gunjant, Cachar Hills - India: 754 ♀ ad., 21.04.1895; 755 ♂ ad., 19.04.1895.

Treron sphenura: 759 ♂ ad. N. Cachar Hills - India, 16.07.1893.

Treron phoenicoptera - ? Madgobani - India: 760 ♂ ad. - 30.12.1897; 761 ♂ ad. 01.01.1898; 765 ♂ ad.

Treron bicincta - Gunjant, Cachar Hills - India: 762 ♀ ad., 27.03.1895; 763 ♂ ad. 08.03.1895.

Treron pompadura phayrei: 764 ♀ ad. Gunjant, Cachar Hills - India, 10.04.1895

Ducula aenea - Gunjant, Cachar Hills - India: 769 ♂ ad. 30.02.1895; 770 ♀ ad., 04.02.1896.

Ducula badia insignis: 772 ♂ ad. Gunjant, Cachar Hills - India, 08. 1892.

Order STRIGIFORMES

Family Tytonidae

Phodilus badius: 1568 ♀ Gujang - Cachar Hills - India, 27.05.1898.

Family Strigidae

Ninox scutulata: 1582 ♀ - Machor - Cachar Hills - India, 10.04.1895.

Otus spilocephalus: 1599 ♀ juv. Gujang - Cachar Hills - India, 09.07.1893.

Otus bakkamoena lettia - Silcorie - Cachar - India: 2191 ♂, 11.1897; 2192 ♀, 11.1897.

Otus scops sunia - N. Cachar - India: 2197 ♂ Laisung, 26.06.1889; 2198 ♀ Junjong, 14.06.1895.

Athene brama - Silchar - N. Cachar Hills: 2199 ♂, 14.12.1895; 2200 ♀ 14.12.1895.

Glaucidium brodiei - Junjong, N. Cachar Hills - India: 2201 ♂ 22.05.1898; 2202 ♂ 26.05.1898.

Glaucidium cuculoides - N. Cachar - India: 2195 ♂ Dijunmukla, 10.04.1893; 2196 ♀ Junjong, 14.12.1895.

Order CORACIIFORMES

Family Meropidae

Nyctyornis athertoni - N. Cachar Hills - India: 776 ♂ ad. Machor, 18.02.1893; 777 ♀ ad. 07.03.1893.

Family Coraciidae

Eurystomus orientalis ? *abundus/orientalis* - Gunjant, Cachar Hills - India: 778 ♂ ad., 18.04.1895; 779 ♀ ad., 18.04.1895.

Family Alcedinidae

Alcedo atthis - N. Cachar Hills - India: 4451 ♂ juv. - Bankubara, 12.1892; 4453 ♂ ad. Silchar, 05.09.1895; 4454 ♂ ad., Sildoobil, 17.12.1896; 4455 ♂ ad. Dhurrumktal, 15.10.1895.

Halcyon chloris palmeri: 837 ad. Java.

(*Pelargopsis gourial*): 847 ♂ Cachar Hills - India, 01.1893.

Halcyon pileata: 852 ♀ juv. Cachar Hills - India, 15.10.1897.

Ceryle lugubris: 859 ♀ Derebera - Cachar Hills - India, 24.02.1893.

Family Bucerotidae

Anthracoceros malabaricus - Cachar - India: 2171 ♂; 2172 ♂

Aceros undulatus: 2173 ♂ Cachar - India.

Aceros plicatus - New Guinea: 2178 ♀; 2180 ♂

Buceros bicornis - Indochina: 2181 ♀; 2182 ♂

Order PSITTACIFORMES

Family Psittacidae

Psittacula alexandri alexandri: 5167 Machor - North Cachar - India, 06.02.1896.

Order PICIFORMES

Family Picidae

Picoides canicapillus - N. Cachar Hills - India: 793 ♂ ad., 01.03.1893; 795 ♀ ad. 26.02.1893.

Chrysocolaptes lucidus guttacristatus: 813 ♂ ad. N. Cachar Hills - India, 03.1897.

Picus flavinucha: 815 ♀ ad. N. Cachar Hills - India, 12.02.1893.

Blythipicus pyrrhotis - N. Cachar - India: 807 ♀ ad. ? Charangaio, 11.06.1893; 808 ♂ ad. ? Bakimicr, 16.01.1893.

(*Gecinus occipitalis*) N. Cachar Hills - India: 803 ♂ ad. 08.06.1893.

(*Micropternus phaeocephs*) - N. Cachar Hills - India: 809 ♀ ad. Machor, 17.02.1893; 809 ♂ ad. Durgankua, 12.09.1896.

Family Capitonidae

Megalaima virens marshallorum: 825 ♀ ad. 16.02.1899.

Megalaima haemacephala: 828 ♀ Rupachera - Cachar Hills - India, 24.04.1893.

Megalaima lineata - North Cachar Hills - India: 833 ♂, 16.11.1895; 834 ♂
10.04.1897.

Megalaima franklinii - N. Cachar Hills - India: 835 ♂, 10.02.1896; 836 ♀
21.04.1899.

Order PASSERIFORMES

Family Eurilaimidae

Psarisomus dalhousiae - North Cachar Hills - India: 1646 ♂ Gujang, 24.05.1898;
1647 ♀ - 27.04.1899.

Family Pittidae

Pitta cyanea cyanea - Hangrum - N. Cachar Hills - India: 2009 ♀, 26.06.1899;
2010 ♂, 26.06.1899.

Pitta nipalensis nipalensis: 2011 ♂ - Guilag, N. Cachar Hills - India, 10.07.1893.

Pitta sordida cucullata: 2017 ♀ Kuga - N. Cachar Hills - India, 07.06.1892.

Family Alaudidae

Mirafraga erythroptera 1690 ♂ (2 specimens): 09.05.1895; 13.02.1896.

Family Campephagidae

Pericrocotus brevirostris: 2019 Gynjong - N. Cachar Hills - India, 01.02.1896;
2047 ♀ - 11.03.1895.

Pericrocotus flammeus speciosus: 2020 ♂ - Lucknow - India.

Pericrocotus flammeus elegans - N. Cachar Hills - India: 2027 ♀ - Gunjong,
28.04.1893; 2040 ♂ juv. 08.1892; 2039 ♂ juv. Demain, 20.03.1893.

Pericrocotus roseus roseus - Dihungi - N. Cachar Hills - India: 2021 ♂, 27.03.1895;
2026 ♀, 27.03.1895.

Family Irenidae

Chloropsis aurifrons - Gunjong - N. Cachar Hills - India: 1941 ♀, 28.11.1893;

1943 ♂ 20.06.1896.

Chloropsis hardwickei hardwickei - Hangrum - N. Cachar Hills - India: 1946 ♀

1947 ♂, 21.02.1896.

Irena puella - N. Cachar Hills - India: 1726 01.1883; 1727 01.1893.

Spelaeornis longicaudatus: 1733 ♂, 25.03.1893.

Family Laniidae

Lanius schach tephronotus: 1771 ♂, 03.07.1894, 1772 ♀, 01.01.1893.

Lanius schach nigriceps: 1777 ♂- 24.02.1893.

Family Turdidae

Monticola rufiventris (? *M. erythrogaster*) - Cachar Hills - India: 1631 ♂ 22.02.1896;
1632 ♀ juv. 01.1983.

Cochoa viridis: 1680 ♂ N. Cachar Hills - India, 24.05.1898.

(*Merula castanea*): 1752 ♂, 15.03.1896.

Family Timaliidae

Garrulax austeni: 2174 ♀ Bakchimnur - N. Cachar - India, 01.11.1895.

Family Muscicapidae

Terpsiphone paradisi affinis - Rupachera - Cachar Hills - India: 1643 ♀ ,
30.10.1893; 1644 ♂, 20.10.1893.

Family Sittidae

Sitta formosa: 1650 (two adults) - N. Cachar Hills - India, 27.06.1899.

Sitta frontalis frontalis: 1666 (two specimens - ♂ and ♀) - N. Cachar Hills - India,
22.03.1895.

Sitta castanea cinnamoventris: 1667 (two specimens - ♂ and ♀) - N. Cachar Hills
- India, 25.02.1895.

Family Paridae

Melanochlora sultanea - N. Cachar - India : 2032 ♀ Halfang, 30.07.1899; 2033
♂ M. Machor.

Family Dicaeidae

Dicaeum cruentatum: 2435 ♂ Haflang - N. Cachar.

(*Anthothreptes phoenicotis*): 2441 ♂ Dwarbund - N. Cachar - India - 12.1896.

Family Nectariniidae

Aethopyga siparaja seheriae: 2406 ♂ Gunjong - N. Cachar Hills - India, 02.11.1895.

Aethopyga gouldiae: 2436 ♂ Gunjong - N. Cachar Hills - India, 21.03.1893.

Arachnothera magna - Gunjong, N. Cachar Hills, India: 2455 ♀, 02.11.1892;
2456 ♀, 25.07.1893.

Family Oriolidae

Oriolus traillii traillii: 1760 ♀, 11.02.1893; 1761 ♀ N. Cachar Hills - India,
11.02.1893.

Family Dicruridae

Dicrurus remifer tectirostris: 1654 F. ?ajsung - N. Cachar Hills - India, 26.04.1895.

Dicrurus hottentottus hottentottus: 1655 ♂ India.

Dicrurus paradiseus: 1664 ♀ India, 15.01.1896.

Family Corvidae

Cissa chinensis chinensis - India: 1703 ♂, 03.1897; 1704 ♂, 22.11.1896.

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Колекцията на Стюърт Бейкър от птици в Националния природонаучен музей в София

Златозар БОЕВ

(Резюме)

Бившият секретар на Британското орнитологично дружество през последното десетилетие на 19 в. събира в щата Асам в Индия забележителна орнитологична колекция от птичи кожи, яйца и монтирани препарати на птици. Част от нея остава на Бомбайското природонаучно дружество, друга част продава на Лорд Ротшилд, но третата, най-голяма част, продава на Царския природонаучен музей в София. Тази част съставлява 152 препарати на птици от 83 вида (от 9 разреда и 29 семейства), събирани в периода 1892 - 1900 г. Повечето произлизат от възвишенията Кахар в Асам (Индия), но отделни екземпляри са от други страни, напр. в Индокитай и Нова Гвинея. Приведени са пълните данни от етикетите на препаратите и в повечето случаи латинските названия са осъвременени според съвременната систематика.